

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise in recognition of the historic International Day of Human Rights and the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that passed on December 10, 2011. It was a day that recognized the momentous efforts made in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly which declared that the citizens of the world have basic and essential human rights. This effort was in reaction to the immediate aftermath of the crimes against humanity in World War II. This noble accomplishment made by the international community established the fundamental freedoms of humankind and worked not only to cultivate, but also continuously protect international peace.

The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights signified an international commitment to preserving and building the foundation of human rights, which serves as an enduring resolve for advocates around the world. 2011 was a historic year that recognized the momentous actions of global protestors trying to rid themselves of tyranny and move towards democracy. Met with forceful and dangerous opposition, these protestors stayed the course and fought for what they believed in.

In June of 2011, I met with Iran180, a multi-cultural and multi-faith organization established with the goal of addressing the human rights violations and aggressive pursuit of nuclear weapon development. I, alongside several members of the New York delegation presented an award to Mr. Ahmad Batebi, a student who was involved in the July 1999 protests against the Iranian government at Tehran University. He was arrested, tried in closed-door proceedings, was sentenced to death and spent eight years being tortured in prison until his escape in 2008. Since then, Batebi serves as the chairman of Cyber Dissidents where he continues to advocate for human rights and democracy.

Mr. Batebi is an inspiration to all people, especially to those living under oppressive circumstances. We have to stand up and fight for what we believe in order to achieve freedom and liberty without living in repressive conditions.

The uphill struggles to promote and protect human rights have been expanding in my beloved district, from the efforts of the NAACP, Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, Alianza Dominicana, and several other outstanding organizations that continue to be a cornerstone in my Harlem community for people who would otherwise not have the essential civil liberties of participating in the political process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in expressing the utmost gratitude towards the work of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the numerous organizations that fight diligently for to pre-

serve our fundamental principles of humanity. We must work tirelessly to ensure that all Americans and around the world exercise the same basic human rights.

HONORING NOVELEAN "MOTHER" HARRIS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Novelean "Mother" Harris of Richmond, California, who passed on January 11, 2012 at the age of 95. Mother Harris was a deeply religious and caring woman who fed and clothed the unfortunate and those in need, and a pioneering business owner in her community.

Mother was the second child born to the late Charlie and Lillie Turner on Thursday, June 15, 1916 in Bernice, Louisiana. She came to know Christ at an early age when her family moved to El Dorado, Arkansas, and joined the New Bethel Baptist Church. Later, Novelean married the love of her life, the late George H. Harris, and had two sons, James and George, and a daughter, Carolyn.

George moved his family to Richmond, California, in 1943 to seek better opportunities. Soon afterwards, George and Mother joined North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, under the late Reverend F.W. Watkins, where they were active participants in their church and their community. George opened one of the first successful insurance businesses in Richmond. He was also one of the first African Americans to serve on the Contra Costa County Grand Jury. With the goal in mind to also own a business, Novelean enrolled at the Charm Beauty School in Oakland, obtained her state cosmetology license, and opened the first African American owned beauty salon in North Richmond. She later established Novelean's Beauty Salon on the Southside of the city where she mentored and trained other women to become licensed cosmetologists. At the time of her death, Mother Harris held one of the oldest business licenses in the City of Richmond.

Mother Harris served in many capacities at North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, but she will be most remembered for running the church's Soup Kitchen. Mother Harris never turned away a hungry person. She and her volunteer staff provided nutritious meals to countless people and ensured that the needy received a bag of groceries and clothes. She ministered to the homeless who came to eat. Each day at noon, Mother Harris would stop whatever she was doing to lead a prayer. Her passion for feeding the hungry extended beyond her service in the church. Mother Harris often prepared large pots of soup in her own kitchen and delivered meals to the homes of seniors and the disabled.

Mother Harris was a strong pillar in her city. She encouraged others in the community to vote and supported the campaigns of many who sought elected office by giving advice, raising contributions, and feeding candidates in local, state, and national elections.

The City of Richmond declared May 5, 2007, "Mother Harris Day" in honor of her

contributions to the community. A bench was dedicated to her outside of North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church. Mother Harris was a life member of the Richmond Branch NAACP and was a founding member of the Cosmetology Organization of the Greater Bay Area.

Simply stated by Mother Harris, "God gave me a vision early in my life to reach out and help those in need." She leaves a legacy for us all to follow.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in offering sincere condolences to her children, family, and friends.

WORTH THE WAIT FOR PAGE PIRATES FANS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the saying that good things come to those who wait can be applied to the fans of the Walter H. Page High School football team. Page fans have been waiting since 1985 for their football team to capture a state championship. The Pirates completed a 15-0 perfect season with the title win, on December 3, 2011. I would like to take this time to recognize Page High School's football team, located in the Sixth District of North Carolina, for winning the Class 4-AA state championship. The Page Pirates defeated Garner High, 35-21, in front of more than 10,000 fans at BB&T Field in Winston Salem.

The Pirates took the lead in the second quarter and never looked back. "Our kids believed they were supposed to be here, and I believe they not only deserve to be here, but to win it, and we did," Page Coach Kevin Gillespie told the (Greensboro) News & Record. The program's undefeated 15-0 record solidifies both his and the player's beliefs.

Garner High began to gain momentum and cut the lead to seven points in the third quarter, but Pirates quarterback, James Summers answered with a 54-yard touchdown on the very next play. This display of athleticism and determination earned him the game's Most Valuable Player award. All members of the Page football team contributed to the perfect season, including Jalen Gavin, Carter Stanley, Jonathan Lynch, Kysung Young, Brian Spain, Jarvis Small, Orlando Hatfield, Blake Hickman, Carter Greene, Jordan Putnam, Thomas Little, Christian Cranford, Marcus Demery, Ed Britt, Ryan Jackson, William Henry, Savon Wall, Shedrick Pate, Drew Rogers, Devonta Hooker, Kahlil Wilson, Evan Roer, A.J. Capel, Shaun Worker, Grant Brewer, Eric Kelly, Justin Smith, Tim Wharton, Lorenzo Featherston, DeAnthony Brooks, Chance Maness, Ventura Anthony, Jacob Green, Anthony Hope, Chris Hamrick, Arrius McCain, David Jennings, Jaxon Cummings, Jonathan Smith, Kemp Young, Andrew Lamore, Dishon Stewart, Isaiah Towns, Rasheen Wall, Lewis Jones, Alex Alvarez, Matt Mayfield, Tevin Morrison, Chris Mosley, and Tommy Laughon.

Credit must be given to Head Coach Kevin Gillespie and his staff including Norman Weeks, Gordon Hagen, Todd Halkyer, Cody Page, Wilson Helms, Chris Ferguson, Kevin Harris, Earl Sams, Jesse Britt, Malcolm